

STUDY GUIDE OF

I AM A GENIUS OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL

AND I WANT TO BE YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT

"If *War and Peace* had a baby with *The Breakfast Club* and then left the baby to be raised by wolves, this book would be the result. I loved it."—JON STEWART

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Key Facts

I am an Unspeakable Genius of Evil and I want to be Your Class President

Author: Josh Lieb

Publication: 2009

Narrator & Point of View: Oliver Watson

Tone: Sardonic

Settings: Mostly at home and school

Plot Overview

Oliver is a seventh grade boy who loves his mom's grilled cheese and who lives with his parents and his dog named Lollipop in Omaha, Nebraska. Oliver is in his english class with his classmates and Mr. Moorhead, whom he considers the 'saddest person' on Earth. Although Mr. Moorhead considers Oliver as the dumbest kid in the class, Oliver claims that he is a genius and that he is unspeakably evil. He claims that he made a chemical named Lazopril that makes anyone who's exposed to it feel like doing nothing more violent than taking a nap. Oliver is also extremely rich and has a cover-up character named Lionel Sheldrake who is known as the 'Third richest man on Earth' with Oliver's money. With this extreme wealth, Oliver hires three bodyguards: Pistol, Bardolph, and Nym. These three bodyguards' main job is to shoot a mini-dart full of Lazopril to

people who tries to mess up with Oliver; they also do have other tasks such as slipping in cigarettes into Mr. Moorhead's pocket or printing out pictures from the 2000 hidden cameras in Oliver's school.

One day in school, Oliver is nominated as a candidate for the middle school presidential election. First, Oliver does not want to run in the election, so he denies the chance but he still tells his parents that he is nominated as the candidate. His dad then talks about his wonderful memories of student council, which annoys Oliver. Oliver then decides to run in the election, and by winning the election, crush his dad's pride. The conflict between Oliver and his dad's pride is the main driving force of the whole story line in this novel. After making his decision to run in the election, Oliver goes to Leon Pinckney, the principal of the school. Unfortunately, the principal says that Oliver cannot run as a candidate since he already refused to run as a candidate. This is when the 'Motivator' comes into the story and negotiates with the principal; the principal agrees to let Oliver run in the election if the Motivator brings the Rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure. Oliver says that there are only one dozen of these figures that survived, and among those dozen of figures, only one is finished enough with appropriate painting and all. The problem is that this one complete figure is owned by a dictator of an African nation and that dictator won't sell his figure no matter how high the price is. But Oliver orders Sheldrake to get the figure. So Sheldrake steals the figure and Oliver becomes a candidate for the election. After then, he uses the Motivator to talk to all other presidential candidates so that everyone drops out of the election. When everyone else but Oliver dropped out of the election, Oliver proudly tells his to his parents but Oliver's dad reacts by telling Oliver he did not 'win' an election. Oliver's dad claims that although Oliver might be the president, he did not win an election which is the very core of democracy. After listening to his dad, Oliver decides to create another candidate who he can win over. Oliver then hires several men to steal a bike of Randy Sparks, whom Oliver think is the most pathetic guy in the school. Oliver gives that bike to Verna, another woman that he hires, and orders Verna to become Randy Spark's dad's

girlfriend to persuade Randy Spark to run in the election. Verna did do so as she was told to, and Randy Spark became the other presidential candidate.

The election process is quite corrupted and is manipulated with Oliver's money. He believes that his money will allow him to do anything he wants to. Tatiana, who Oliver first claimed was the meanest girl in the school, helps Oliver with his election campaign and also becomes friends with Oliver's mom. Oliver's friend also spread false rumors that are favorable towards Oliver so that Oliver can win the election. Mudslinging is also a part of the election. Time quickly passes, and the time for the speech comes. However, when Sheldrake was about to give a speech, a bomb exploded. Oliver is saved by his bodyguards and Oliver later tells the readers that the African dictator whom Sheldrake stole the figure from was behind the whole bombing incident. At home, another controversial event occurs because Verna states that she is actually in love with Randy's father and that she will quit working for Oliver. Later on as the election meets its ending, Oliver's turn to deliver his speech arrives. Oliver prepared his own speech that will satisfy everyone, hopefully. Nonetheless, he saw his father in the audience, and Oliver decides to do something special so that he can impress his dad and break up his pride. So Oliver rips his speech, and started talking about how the student council basically has no power over the school board, and how a presidential election is actually a beauty contest in which candidates try to make themselves more popular. After his radical speech that demeaned the whole student council election, Oliver felt embarrassed and wanted to get away. Then he peed on his pants accidentally, and ran away in humiliation. While Oliver was heading towards home, he decides to destroy the whole school. Right after he ordered it, he meets his dad, and Oliver's dad says "Well, I'll tell you what.... I am proud of you." Oliver then realizes that his dad is being truthful, cancels his order of breaking down the school, and walks home with his dad.

CHARACTER LIST

OLIVER:

Oliver is a relatively short and chubby middle-schooler. He describes himself physically as an average boy, but intellectually superior. Just by the look of him, he does not seem like the genius he is. He uses his clever brain to fulfill his malicious deeds. Just by reading the first few chapters, you could tell that Oliver has a very twisted mentality. He is extremely sardonic, pessimistic, and pompous.

DAD:

Oliver describes his dad as thin and rat-faced. He also has a rather small physique for a regular man and wears glasses. A lot of conflict seems to arise not only from Oliver's flawed personality but also his father's. He seems very blunt and ignorant. He also seems like a man with high standards. His bluntness and standards makes him very not appreciative and close-minded.

MOM:

Oliver describes his mom as big, soft, and sloppy. She is very genuine, unlike her husband, and is very caring. However, she is also very spineless. This shows when she becomes friends with Liz and Tatiana, Oliver's classmates, and complies to almost whatever Tatiana says.

TATIANA:

Tatiana always wears pink. She is vibrant and brilliant yet in an evil way like Oliver. She is one of the classmates Oliver considers "clever" and "worthy". She has long curly hair which Oliver seems

to emphasize. She is, in a way, the gang leader. The novel shows how strong-headed and how confident she is.

RANDY:

Oliver describes Randy as “the most pathetic loser” in school. He looks very wimpy and has a small stature as well. He seems like a very nice kid, but also seems odd. He cannot easily socialize with people and is often bullied by a kid named Alan Pitt. This causes him to be very vulnerable, insecure, and self-conscious.

MOORHEAD:

Moorhead could probably be described as the adult version of Randy Sparks. Oliver describes him as the biggest loser in the world because he tries to be cool when in reality he is the total opposite. He is short and has a large belly, according to Oliver. Although he might seem like a very confident man, he actually has low self-esteem and wants to hide this by trying to act cool. He is so insecure that he actually listens to anonymous cigarette messages.

SHELDRAKE:

Oliver says that Sheldrake *looks* than a billionaire as well. He is tall, sharp-eyed, lean-cheeked, and hawk-nosed. His beard is always cleanly trimmed, almost always wears those expensive suits, and rides a black SUV. Sheldrake, rather than being evil, likes flaunting his money--or better said, Oliver's money. He believes that money can get him anything he wants and heavily relies on it. He is merely Oliver's puppet or some sort of cover-up by holding Oliver's fortune. This shows how weak he is against money, and shows how spineless he is.

VERNA:

Verna looks like your average secretary. She prefers to wear formal clothing and always has her hair tidy. According to *Omaha's World-Herald*, Verna loves to run political campaigns. She also loves democracy. In the novel, initially she seems like a very shallow woman who only has her mind set on the prize, money; however, as the story develops, you will see her more sentimental side. The story shows her conflicting mentality when she actually falls in love with Scott Sparks.

MAJOR CHARACTER ANALYSIS

OLIVER looks like your usual chubby, short a seventh grader. He never seems to pay attention during class, in fact at times he just sleeps. Yet he is more complex than your average seventh grader. He describes himself intellectually superior over kids. He labels kids as “monkeys” and degrades them. This is not the end to his complexity. He is very malicious and uses his intelligence to threaten others or to get what he wants. For example, he often threatens Sheldrake to comply to his orders without questioning with his harmful gadgets and poisonous chemicals he formulated. He is extremely sardonic and pessimistic as well. He looks down on almost everybody he knows and believes that people are either stupid or selfish. How bad is he? Well, he belittles his parents by referring to them as two animals. This leads to my next point. The reason why Oliver is so mentally twisted is perhaps because of his dad. Oliver’s father rarely shows any remark of love for Oliver. Oliver describes his smiles as the most fake smile he has ever seen. His dad also seems to be busy with himself that he never has the time to get to know Oliver. To this, Oliver feels as if his father doesn’t acknowledge him or worse, degrades him. Being a self-centered, arrogant kid, Oliver cannot stand the fact that his father doesn’t respect or love him. When his dad talks about his glory days as class president, Oliver realizes the only way to “crush” his dad is to be better than him,

which is becoming class president as a seventh grader. This also shows Oliver's twisted mentality. He believes that his father would be "crushed" if Oliver won the class president. He despises his father and wants to take his glory days away from him. Oliver is also a very stubborn kid. He would do nearly anything in order to get what he wants. Ultimately he wants his father's respect and recognition. To gain this, he goes through the process of fabricating a false abduction story on the media, steals a highly valuable item from the African dictator, hires a woman to go out with Randy Spark's dad, and almost gets Sheldrake killed. This shows a rather childish side of Oliver. Though he might be smarter than normal kids, he seems to still have the same maturity as them.

DAD is thin and rat-faced. He has a comparably small physique and looks weak. However, unlike his looks, he is a rather honestly harsh and carries high standards and strict principles. This makes Oliver think of him as a very rigorous, closed-minded man. In fact, he feels as if his father doesn't love him at all. This is how the ultimate conflict of the story happens. Oliver's father works as a TV show host. During the pledge drive, Sheldrake came over, as Oliver's orders, and bribed Oliver's dad and his coworker to stop the pledge drive. Oliver's dad initially is confused and angry, but as his coworker gives in, he is forced to accept the bribery. After this incident, he seemed very unstable. He stopped shaving and didn't get out of his robe. He then lectured Oliver about how men like Sheldrake deserve to die. This bribery incident really hurt his principles, which he regards with high esteem. This shows how he has very strict standards and principles. These traits make Oliver think of him as a very rigorous, closed-minded man. In fact, he feels as if his father doesn't love him at all.

IMPORTANT QUOTES

“I rip off my face in disgust. Damn these humans and their idiotic emotions. They’re the only things in this world I can’t control.” (111)

This quote is said by Oliver when Verna tells Oliver she quits the job and that she has to break off the agreement because she is in love with Scott Sparks. Oliver is infuriated by this because he witnesses true love and how sincere Verna is. The anger he expresses could be because he himself doesn’t receive enough love. Also the quote shows part of the process of both Verna and Oliver’s transformation. This is one of the themes of the novel: transformation. First off, it depicts Verna’s transformation because in the beginning she was only motivated by the money and was willing to deceive two of the most innocent guys for the money. However, the quote shows how Verna actually genuinely loves and cares for the Sparks and how she discovered true love, which ultimately makes Oliver extremely upset. This quote depicts a stage of Oliver’s transformation as well. In this quote, it shows how Oliver realizes he cannot control everything in this world and that there are somethings way more powerful than his weapons, money, and intelligence, which are emotions. The process of realization makes him understand how being truthful is very important, which is one reason why Oliver improvises his election speech stating how he truly feels about everything.

“Somebody who loves democracy. Somebody who believes in student government. Somebody who’s cheering for *Randy*. And something inside me snaps.” (286)

This quote is Oliver describing somebody who is cheering whole-heartedly after Randy’s speech. This somebody refers to Oliver’s dad. The sight of his dad cheering for Randy, a kid he doesn’t even know, the biggest loser in our school, makes Oliver snap. This quote supports the

theme, an impact a father could have on the son. Oliver is obviously very sensitive when it comes to his dad since he feels as if his dad doesn't love him, so when he sees him cheering for Randy he immediately loses it. He is probably thinking 'he never cheered for me, yet he would cheer for a total stranger.' This is further more impacting because it is his dad. If it were his mother he wouldn't have taken it hard at all. He'd just think she is being nice. However, knowing his father, who generally has high standards, cheering and supporting another kid really made a huge impact on him. His father has so much of an impact on him that Oliver totally ignored his original speech and began to improvise. In the end of this passage he pees right in front of the stage to somehow distract the audience from thinking about his horrible and confusing speech. From his terrible speech to his peeing in front of the entire middle school all happened because his father cheering for another kid had such a huge impact on him.

““I know all that, Lionel. I've already put the entire network on high alert. Double surveillance of the area. Regular jet patrols over our airspace. We won't take any chances until this thing is resolved.’ ‘Until *what's* resolved? Your middle-school *election*? My God--all of this to gain the respect of a man who doesn't seem to even *like* you-” (108)

This quote supports one of the main themes of the novel: “The end justifies the means” by Machiavelli. This quote is said by Sheldrake a few hours after he was almost assassinated. Sheldrake complains to Oliver about how he could be so ignorant and selfish just to win a middle-school election which is to gain the respect of his dad. The quote says “all this” referring to bribing, fabricating, deceiving, injuring, etc. This quote shows how stubborn and headstrong Oliver is. To him, as long as he gains the result he wants, the process doesn't matter even if it requires Sheldrake's life or deceiving the entire public. This quote points out how truly Machiavellian Oliver is. After this, Oliver states that Sheldrake would rue the day he had the chance to kill the African dictator, which surprises his father. He is surprised because he hasn't realized how Machiavelli

Oliver is. If you think about it, the cost of all of the events Oliver pulls off is such a large scale compared to the acknowledgement of his father; however, to Oliver it is not. He would do “all this” in order to get recognition and respect from his father.

“And in his eyes, I have accomplished *nothing*. ‘I guess it just wasn’t meant to be, huh, Champ?’ I nod, and I try to swallow, but it feels like I’m swallowing chalk dust. I can feel my features hardening. *What do I have to do to impress this man?*” (73)

This quote supports the main theme of the story: yearning for father’s acknowledgement. Tatiana spread a rumor that Oliver was going to die, so Liz backed off from running for president. Jack simply wanted to focus on his studies so he withdrew as well. This left only Oliver running for class president. Oliver was glad to tell his parents the good news that he will automatically become class president. Oliver’s mom is happy for him, but his dad, rather than congratulating him, pities him and says he is sorry. He says so because technically Oliver hasn’t won anything. After hearing this Oliver is speechless. Then he says this quote. Oliver seems to really want some sort of sincerity out of his father. To his eyes Oliver didn’t accomplish anything. This greatly upsets Oliver. He describes his frustration and choking feelings as trying to swallow chalk dust. His features harden which expresses his anger and confusion. All of these thoughts and physical senses react this way because that is how much he wanted to impress his father. His father’s one comment completely shot Oliver down. This shows how much he yearns for his recognition. In the end of the quote he asks what would he have to do to impress his father as if it’s almost impossible. This quote also once again points out how the entire story revolves around his trying to gain his father’s respect. All of this started because he wanted his father’s recognition so badly.

“‘I’m just damn proud of you, son.’ I pull away and look in his eyes. He means it.” (302)

This quote summarizes the moral lesson of the story: one doesn’t love the other because the other accomplished something; one loves the other just as the way the other is. The entire story was

about Oliver trying to gain his father's respect in love. In order to achieve this goal Oliver went through so many things, which we discussed when talking about Machiavelli. He bribed his own dad, fabricated false stories on the media, and deceived all his friends and the public, and injured people to get his father to love and respect him. After all of this, he ruins his speech, pees in his pants, and will most likely not win the election. However, despite the result and the humiliation, his father still went up to him and finally opened up that he is proud of him and that he loves him. This shows that his father loved him all along, he just didn't express it. It also shows how you don't have to "gain" someone's, especially your father's, love. He simply was proud of Oliver for being "Oliver."

Themes

Evilness

Oliver, the main character portrays evilness throughout the whole novel. For most of the time, Oliver criticizes and degrades others to show off that he is a genius. He has high self-esteem and thinks that he is better than most of the people. For example, in the beginning of the novel, Oliver describes his English teachers as, "Moorhead is one of those sad people who go into teaching so they can be worshipped by the only people sadder than they are-- students. Prime example: Pammy Quattlebaum, so-called smart girl and insufferable butt-lick, who sits in the front row"(1). Through Oliver's criticism, it is inferred that he tries to criticize everything he comes across with a sardonic

manner. He describes his English teacher hopeless and calls his classmate the worst character after his English teacher. Furthermore, the sardonic character depicts Oliver's pessimistic view points towards most of the subjects. Unlike normal middle school students, Oliver criticizes and worries on the matters of the use of word kid. He does not like the word kid because he thinks adults are calling them in a condescending manner. Oliver also condemns the fact that children are loud, fat, and annoying. With these in mind, Oliver is depicted as the super evil character.

Although Oliver is a mean evil character, he was not inborn evil child. Rather, he was raised to be one. The lack of care and the condescending remarks from his dad provoked Oliver to be cynical about life and sardonic about events. Oliver's dad has influenced Oliver in many ways, "Maybe he'll grow up to be an architect. Sometimes the ones who have the worst Verbal skills have the best spatial abilities" (123). Throughout the novel, Oliver shares his childhood about how he was mistreated by his father. Oliver does not directly relate his sardonic character with his dad's indifference towards him, but Oliver continuously mentions his memories when he discusses about his change in life. Oliver's goal to become the class president is mainly focused to crush his dad's pride, displaying his evilness. Oliver shouts, "I hate his pride. I hate his smugness. I hate his face" (125). His developed evilness is portrayed in his actions. For example, he hires Verna so that Randy would run for election just so that Oliver would not be made fun in front of his father. Important analysis of this incident is that Oliver planned this so that he can crush Randy and be the victorious president. Oliver's actions portray selfishness and his lack of respect to others.

Money Cannot Buy Everything

Throughout the novel, Sheldrake and Oliver abuse money to get whatever they want. However, the novel, , shows how money cannot buy everything in life. Within the novel, Lionel Sheldrake is the third richest man in the world who is living in the Omaha, the setting of the novel. Sheldrake is the son of Lionel and a friend of Oliver. Although Oliver is not as rich as Sheldrake, Oliver uses Sheldrake to get what he wants. In this case, the president election in the middle school is what Oliver and Sheldrake are trying to obtain through bribing people. Verna is one of the employees of Oliver and Sheldrake. Because Oliver did not want to shame himself in front of his father, he hired Verna to convince Randy to run for president election. They believe that money can do everything, “But you were paid very well for lack of curiosity. Now you want to break our agreement. That is bad business. I demand an explanation,” but later is confused when Verna backs out (256). Along with this, Sheldrake bribed millions of dollars to the radio station for the purpose of his election. In the beginning of the novel, Oliver and Sheldrake are confident about winning because of their use of money and hiring Verna. However, Oliver and Sheldrake start to learn that money cannot buy everything as events start to crumble. In the latter of the novel, Verna returns and quits her job of helping Oliver in the president election. She states, “But even if he did believe you... even if he did tell me to get lost... go ahead, tell him. Because I won’t do your dirty work anymore” (259). She even gives her checks back to Sheldrake and Oliver. In this situation, the novel implies the moral aspects of human life. It is here when Oliver and Sheldrake are confused by Verna’s act. They thought that money would do anything, but at this moment, they learn that money in the end cannot do everything. The novel provides the morality theme that certain things in life cannot be bought through money. The novel also implies that humanity and warmth are much more important in life

than economic and status in because materials do not represent any love or worth. In the end, what Oliver wanted is the warmth from his family, not winning the president election.

Symbols

Election posters

During the campaign period of president election, both Randy and Oliver put up their campaign posters. The campaign posters these two candidates put up symbolized their characteristics. Since Oliver is a mean evil character, he had his campaign crew figuring out what Randy is putting up in his campaign posters. After looking at these posters, Oliver and his crew made posters that were attacking Randy's comments, "But listen, Tubby. Somebody keeps texting me the slogans Randy Sparks is gonna have on his posters. Know what that means? We can respond to his posters before he even puts 'em up" (207). Oliver did not put up his strengths, rather he ridiculed and criticized Randy in his posters. These posters say a lot about Oliver. Relating to the main theme, the evilness and sardonic character constantly revolves around Oliver. The election posters accurately portray Oliver's character and his critical view on everything.

On the other hand, Randy plays a kind hearted dull character. He is dull first because he does not know why Verna convinced him to run for president candidate. However, as time progresses he really wants to become the president of the middle school. It is reflected in his character that he is diligent and fair. Unlike Oliver who thinks he can win the election through money, Randy Sparks campaigns himself small bits by bits to earn the vote. His election posters portray his honesty. Even

in his campaign slogans he uses his honesty, “ I know I’m not the most popular guy at school. I’ve eaten so many lunches alone. I’ve forgotten how to talk and chew food at the same time” (283). The two election posters portray the two characteristics of the two boys. Through these posters, it also depicts the main theme, evilness.

Dinner celebration

Throughout the novel, Oliver’s main goal is to win the president election. Oliver’s father and mother portray two distinct characteristics. Oliver’s father is indifferent towards Oliver at first and his mother is always cheerful toward Oliver. However, both parents have one common aspect, dinner celebration. In the novel, dinner celebration symbolizes achievement and success. Only in times of achievement, Oliver’s family have a dinner celebration. As the president election day comes near, Oliver’s mom is already ready for the dinner celebration, believing that Oliver will win the election, “We will have a big dinner celebration after you come home as the president” (218). Unlike Oliver’s father, Oliver’s mom offer Oliver warmth, which Oliver later realizes. Warmth, another central theme, develops in the end of the novel.

The indifferent father changes his attitude towards Oliver to a warm caring father in the end of the novel. In the beginning of chapter, it seemed as if Oliver was adopted because his father was so indifferent towards Oliver. Oliver himself too could not believe his eyes when his father was sitting in the auditorium during his election speech. Although Oliver changed his mind and gave a radical, and peed on his pants, Oliver’s father was there to support Oliver and provide warmth to his son for the first time. Oliver’s father describes Oliver’s speech as courageous and one of greatest achievements. With a support, his father states, “Come on. Your mom is at home making dinner celebration” (302). Once again, dinner celebration is symbolized as an achievement. In this case,

Oliver has made a courageous speech that only few of the other boys could have done in front of the school body.

Chapter summaries

Section 1(chapter 1~7)

I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to Be Your Class President written by Josh Lieb is a fiction book. It was published in the year of 2009, and preferred to the young adults. The book is narrated by the protagonist of the book, Oliver Watson. Throughout the story, the events are described in a sardonic matter and with cynical thoughts by Oliver. Oliver is currently in seventh grade and attends the Gale Sayers Middle School. The story of the book starts off with Oliver identifying himself as a natural genius. He criticizes people at his school, such as his English teacher Mr. Moorhead and his fellow classmate Randy Sparks and Pammy Quattlebaum, considering them as “the saddest person on Earth,” and “pathetic.” He considers Mr. Moorhead to be “the saddest person on Earth” and believes that Mr. Moorhead is full of dullness and has nothing to do during his whole lifetime. Oliver considers Randy Sparks to very pathetic, regardless of the fact that Randy always approaches Oliver friendlies and considers Pammy to be the meanest girl among other classmates. However, Oliver mocks people around him but and exception to Lionel Sheldrake, who is the third richest man in the world. Oliver describes how one day he will become the richest man on Earth with his well devised business plans. Throughout the whole section, Oliver shows hardly any signs of optimism nor any positive thinking toward anybody except about himself. Oliver is very pompous and overly-confident, and there shows no sign of any fear toward

his future. He dislikes that he is still a child, since he believes that a child cannot do anything significant nor make any difference to the world unless the child turns to an adult.

Section 2(chapter 8~15)

The settings of this section are mostly at Oliver's home dinner table, and at Gale Sayers Middle School. Oliver and his parents sit at the dinner table, and talks about the idea of having student council. Oliver tells his parents how he became nominated as the class president. This surprises his father, since the father did not expect anything high from his own son. Then, Oliver's father recalls his middle school memories of running the student council. This leads to Oliver feeling shameful of himself that his father does not acknowledge his own son as an "equal" to himself. This motivates Oliver to set goals of becoming a class president, to put shame at his father, by ruining his pride and "smugness." This shows how Oliver dislikes to see other people at happy stages. The challenge begins with Oliver starting plan toward running for the class president election without anyone else's help, since he does not have any friends and dislikes his classmates. Again, Oliver is very sardonic, cynical, but not so pessimistic toward himself. but rather feels intimidated by him. He shows no indication of love towards his own father Oliver is full of self-conviction, and begins to feel passionate toward his new goal all set to earn acknowledgment from his father. To begin with his plan, Oliver visits the Principal Prickney's office immediately to become approved to become the class president. At this point, Oliver is not aware of how others view him but only focuses on how he feels at presence. He believes that there is nothing to stop him and that he is capable at anything. However, Principal Prickney does not approve Oliver to become the class president but advices him to participate running for the election, but this does not discourage Oliver.

Section 3(chapter 16~23)

Similarly to the previous section, this section only takes place at school and home. The section starts off with Oliver describing his school life. Most importantly, he believes school is full of brutality with mean people, especially girls that are popular. Oliver recalls a memory of being hugged by one of the most popular girl of his middle school, describing how he felt almost life-threatening and suffocating. Tatiana, one of fellow classmates, is a bully of Oliver. She spreads a random rumor that Oliver is going to die soon. This rumor causes people to have sympathy towards Oliver and treats him gentle and behaves amiable to him, like unusual. While Oliver describes his middle school life to be nothing but dull and tedious, his consistent sardonic tone appears almost humorous to the reader. This indicates how Oliver dislikes being close with people, regardless whoever they are. Oliver finds out that his fellow classmates Liz and Jack have dropped out of running for the class president, thus no opponent is there for him to beat. This makes Oliver jocular, and runs home to deliver this news to his father that Oliver will become the class president for certain without any worries. Until this moment, the tone of the story has been cheerful and sardonic. Unanticipatedly, when Oliver tells his father, the father does not show any impressed-face and marks Oliver to have accomplished nothing. The tone of the story narrated by Oliver turns serious and less cheerful. Seeing that his father is not proud of anything of Oliver, Oliver begins to feel extremely degraded. Therefore, Oliver decides to look for opponents to make his father feel truly proud of his own son for having won someone, and at the same time make him feel shameful.

Section 4(chapter 24~30)

The setting of this section is just as same as the previous section. Oliver is still at seventh grade, and has not lost hope of becoming the class president. Oliver mocks the politicians for being overly complex and sophisticated. He promises himself not to become like them when it comes to giving the election speech in front of the audience. Oliver finds another opponent for the election, Randy

Sparks. Thus, there are only two candidates running for the class president. While Randy creates stickers to campaign for his vote, Oliver does nothing but laughs at the “childness” of Randy’s campaigning stickers and paper posters, and how Randy would definitely lose the vote. Oliver’s rough attitude toward Randy makes him feel uneasy to be around Oliver and feels threatened by him. As days pass, Oliver notices that Tatiana and her girl friends are starting to visit his house frequently. He finds out that his mother has become close with them. Unlike the usual Oliver, Oliver appears to be glad that his mother has finally made some friends to socialize. Nevertheless, Tatiana does not stop her impolite manner towards Oliver and always make fun of him. When Tatiana asks if Oliver needs any help for writing his election speech and offers her own help, Oliver refuses. The class president election day is getting closer than before. Nevertheless, Oliver does not lose any bit of confidence and certain that he is going to win the election, which excites him.

Section 5(chapter 31~37)

Oliver spends the next following days preparing for his speech. Due to too much amount of time he spends on his preparation, he falls behind his English class. While the class has moved on to the new novel *The Outsider*, Oliver was still on the book *Fahrenheit 451*. One day, a bomb was fell at Oliver’s school while the students were at an auditorium. Later, it becomes reveals that the bombed was thrown by an African leader to threaten Sheldrake, whom was Oliver’s only friend. Fortunately, no students were greatly harmed. When Oliver comes back home, his father shows a sign of care rather than indifference, and warns Oliver about adoring people who seem have a lot of power in society, such like Sheldrake who is the third richest person on Earth. His father has turned

somewhat strange. He seems to have not not taken a bath for a long time, and have not shaved for a long time. Oliver criticizes his dad and considers that he is jealous of Oliver for having Sheldrake as a friend. Verna, the secretary, decides to help out Oliver to become the class president. The election day becomes turns to be so soon. Oliver asks his father if he is going to come to school and watch his own son giving off his speech in front of everyone. The father answers him that he won't be able to go watch Oliver giving out his speech. One day a thunderstorm hits on Oliver parent's vehicle, as a foreshadow of something unpleasant. The tone of the story remains to be very subject to Oliver. He is very critical and cynical towards the issues that revolve around him.

Section 6(chapter 38~43)

It is finally the election day! The setting of this section mostly in the student auditorium at Oliver's middle school. Oliver becomes less sardonic but rather intense and extremely nervous. He starts off with a typical morning, and takes his mother's hugs as if granted. Randy Sparks stands at the stage before Oliver, and gives out the first class president election speech. Unlike Oliver, Randy seemed to be filled with positive thoughts and optimism. He states that the student election is not a popularity contest but rather an action of voting. Randy moves on with his points and praises the beauty of democracy. Then the audience roars with applause and cheer. This makes Oliver feel extremely small and discouraged. Just then, among the audience Oliver spots his parents, and sees his dad, a fan of the idea of student body and democracy, applauding so greatly at Randy's speech. This incident of seeing his dad applauding at Randy's speech becomes a conflict in Oliver's confidence. This causes Randy feel extremely uneasy. Oliver gives out his cynical speech. He states that the student council is full of "emptiness" and with no goals to start out with. He verbally criticizes Randy's speech, stating how the act of voting is actually a popularity contest, by saying how people would vote for whom they favor. Oliver feels very dizzy and forgets how he has come

all the way up to the stage, overwhelmed by nervousness. As Oliver's speech becomes to the point that it is directly opposite to Randy's speech, and rather very pessimistic and cynical, the audience become stunned and appear as angry animals. Unexpectedly, Oliver finds out by observing the reaction of the audience to his speech that he has made a huge mistake that he cannot fix. He sees his parents seeming worried. Oliver feels exposed, naked, and weak. To elude from the pathetic situation, Oliver decides to pee on his pants and runs out the school building, hearing a roar of laughter. Later, Oliver's father finds Oliver in front of the house walking around and staring at the ground, mumbling cynical words. Unexpectedly, the father hugs Oliver and tells him how proud of he is of Oliver. This time, Oliver is not sardonic since he sees in his father's eyes that he really is proud of Oliver. Although Oliver has lost the class president election, he is satisfied that his father is very proud of his own son and very impressed.

Chapter Study

Questions

Chapters 1–3

1. How is the English teacher portrayed by Oliver?

Answer: Oliver ridicules his English teacher by calling him the most lamest person in the world. He describes Mr. Moorhead, English teacher, as a person who has nothing to do except light up his cigarette after class.

2. Why does Oliver not like adults calling children “kid”?

Answer: Oliver does not like the word kid because he believes that adults call children kid because they think they are better than the children. Also, Oliver believes that adults are condescending towards children if they call them kids.

3. How does Oliver describe inheritance and how does he describe his mom?

Answer: Oliver describes his mom in an inferior way. He states that although people state that children inherit their brains from their mothers, this is false because he does not resemble his mother’s brain. Oliver believes that he is a genius and much more superior than his dull mom.

Chapters 4–7

1. What is Oliver Known for at school?

Answer: Oliver is known for the person not to touch or bully around. Oliver has three bodyguards at school and is famous for his chemicals that make people dizzy. A new student tries to bully Oliver and embarrass himself by falling.

2. According to Oliver, what are main differences between boys and girls?

Answer: Oliver describes boys and girls to be stupid in different ways. Girls are stupid because they would do anything an attractive guy does. For example, girls would go to the movies and pick for the boy they like. On the other hand, he believes that boys would not do anything like this even if they like girl.

3. What are Oliver's thoughts on newborn infants based on his memories?

Answer: Since Oliver thinks he is the genius of all time, he believes that certain infants like him can recall all the memories they had when they were child. However, he criticizes those who are less genius as stupid and unable to function correctly.

Chapters 8–11

1. How does Oliver's father think of his wife based on Oliver's narration?

Answer: Similar to Oliver, Oliver's father think of his wife as person who would not necessarily understand everything he says. Although this is not proven, Oliver's description on his father's reaction towards his mom somewhat proves this argument. Throughout the novel, there are only few conversation between Oliver's father and mother.

2. What does evil mean to Oliver?

Answer: According to Oliver, evil is a person who tries to crush other people by harm or being selfish. Oliver admits that he is also an evil person. He does not care about what other thinks. Rather, he only thinks of himself and is selfish.

3. What is Oliver's ultimate goal in his final days of middle school?

Answer: Oliver's ultimate goal in his final days is to become the middle school president and crush his father's pride and smugness. Oliver's father's condescending remarks towards Oliver provoked Oliver to want to become the president to achieve more than his father.

Chapters 12–15

1. According to Oliver, is he inborn evil or influenced evil?

Answer: Oliver believes that he is not inborn evil. Rather, he believes that he is influenced to be an evil character. He does not blame on any person, but he is certain that he was not born as evil. He discusses about how his bright childhood was let down by his surroundings.

2. How does Oliver represent himself in front of Tatiana and Liz?

Answer: Oliver helps Tatiana to come back to school by proving that Tatiana was not the person who painted the walls. By helping Tatiana and her friend Liz, Tatiana and Liz help Oliver in his election campaign.

3. What does Oliver and Sheldrake offer to the radio station?

Answer: The radio station is advertising to raise money. Sheldrake and Oliver abuses their money buy stating that they will fund 2 million to the radio station so that the radio station does not have to sponsor anymore. In a sarcastic manner, Sheldrake states that he does not want to hear MC's voice.

Chapters 16–19

1. How was Oliver's childhood?

Answer: According to Oliver, his childhood was not that bright. He would always be lonely and his father would always be at work or do something by himself. Oliver's father would also not support Oliver in various ways.

2. How are Oliver and Oliver' father alike?

Answer: Oliver and his father are alike in their sardonic and critical view. Although Oliver was not born as a critical person, it is most likely that he has been influenced by his father throughout his childhood. They are very similar in the way they speak about matters.

3. What big event happens in Omaha?

Answer: On the herald, news provides a coverage on famous political operative retiring. There is also an interesting article based on being bad and wetting one's bed.

Chapters 20–23

1. How does Oliver react to Randy wanting to grow up as a normal person?

Answer: The conversation continues asking how each person want to grow up in the future. Randy states that he wants to be normal in the future. Oliver states that Randy is conversation killer and ridicules his comments.

2. Why is Mr. Moorhead addicted to cigarettes?

Answer: According to Oliver, Mr. Moorhead is strange with his new pack of orange peeled cigarette. Oliver does not blame Mr. Moorhead for his actions, but he is confused to why Mr. Moorhead would be addicted with his new cigarettes

3. Why does Randy Spark become one of president candidates?

Answer: Sheldrake and Oliver hire Verna to convince Randy to run for the class president so that Oliver does not make fool out of himself by becoming the president without winning any vote. Verna convinces Randy to run for class president.

Chapters 24–27

1. Why did Oliver's mom never had friends?

Answer: Oliver's mom never had any friends because there were no one who matched her characteristics. Oliver hired actors and actresses so that his mother can have friends, but they too did not last long until his mother decided not to meet them.

2. How does Sheldrake show off his wealth at his house?

Answer: Verna is invited to Sheldrake's house for a business. At his house, Sheldrake shows off his wealth by stating that he has decorated his house in a fancy way. He also describes how wealth is run through his family. Sheldrake gives Verna a large check so that she is convinced to do the work.

3. How does Oliver's mom think about Oliver and his friends?

Answer: According to Oliver's mom, she believes that Tatiana and Liz are obsessed with Oliver. She states that she knows all the girls are in love with Oliver, but recommends Oliver not to commit himself into girls too early because he has a lot of time to find the right one.

Chapters 28–31

1. Who comes to help Oliver for his posters?

Answer: Tatiana and Liz volunteers to help Oliver making posters. They have created a campaign crew to spy on Randy and make posters that will go against Randy's posters. Tatiana and Liz confuse Oliver by volunteering to help, but he does not refuse their help. Oliver's mom later joins the crew in making the posters.

2. How does Tatiana and Liz end up in Oliver' kitchen?

Answer: Both Tatiana and Liz become friends with Oliver's mom. For most time in the election campaign, Tatiana and Liz spend their time in the kitchen. Oliver is limited in entering the kitchen. Oliver is surprised how his mom gets along with Tatiana and Liz who are middle school students.

3. How are election posters different for each candidate?

Answer: Randy Spark's poster portray honesty and show his personalities. On the other hand, Oliver's election posters are focused on criticizing Randy's election posters. With the help of his campaign crew, Oliver depicts his evil character even in his election campaign posters.

Chapters 32–35

1. What event happens during the assembly that shocks everyone?

Answer: During the election day, while Sheldrake is giving a speech, an a mysterious fire bomb goes off. People in the auditorium dashes out to the parking lot. Oliver, not knowing what to do, stares at the incident. Eventually, Oliver's bodyguards force him out of the auditorium.

2. Is the case solved or does it remain as mystery?

Answer: The mysterious bomb was under over by the investigators, but the principal refused them to investigate in his room. Although there were no definite proof on who did the bombing, it is inferred that the tribe did them as a revenge.

3. Why does Verna change her mind and break up the business?

Answer: Verna changes her mind and breaks up the agreement with Oliver and Sheldrake because she believes that she is in love with Scott Spark. She does not want be involved in the dirty business that will hurt the Spark's. She quits her job and leaves her check behind.

Chapters 36–38

1. How is Randy's speech like? How does it resemble his character?

Answer: As usual, Randy's speech is honest, but somewhat dull. He states that if he becomes the president, he will fight for his classmates and make the school a much more better place for everyone.

2. How does Oliver react to Randy during the election day?

Answer: Oliver behaves as if he is cool with Randy. Because Oliver believes that he will win the election over Randy, Oliver does not look nervous. He plays around giving jokes. However, Randy looks nervous, but still behaves cool in front of Oliver.

3. Why is Oliver so sure about winning the election?

Answer: Oliver is confident about winning the election because Sheldrake and he had planned out everything so that he could win the election. They bribed and abused their wealth to convince and influence people around him so that he his classmates would vote fore him.

Chapters 39–43

1. What rational speech does Oliver give in his president election speech?

Answer: During his election speech, Oliver tears out his written speech, and ridicules the election as a popularity contest. Unlike Oliver's previous plan, he continuously criticizes the state of middle school president election and how it is not really democratic.

2. How does Oliver's father react to Oliver's rational speech?

Answer: Unlike the previous indifferent father, Oliver's father reacts differently to Oliver's radical speech. After Oliver dashes out of the auditorium, his father runs after Oliver and cheers Oliver by telling him that he is proud of his son for being brave in front of a big crowd.

3. What is the shift in the last chapter?

Answer: The shift in the last chapter is the warmth. All the evil and sardonic characters portrayed by Oliver and his father finally changes into warm and kind hearted characters. The novel shows how warmth is more valuable than any status.

Questions

True/False

1. Sheldrake is Oliver's secret benefactor. (True / False)
2. Oliver's dad believes that the position acquired is more important than the whole election process. (True / False)
3. Verna is Randy's stepmother who persuades Randy to run in the presidential election. (True / False)
4. Sheldrake steals the African dictator's Rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure. (True / False)
5. Oliver gives out a typical presidential speech so that he looks like a nice student. (True / False)
6. Oliver's dad is proud of Oliver because he was brave enough to give out a unique speech although he peed in his pants. (True / False)

-----END OF TRUE/FALSE SECTION -----

Sentence Completion

7. Oliver's dog's name is _____.
8. Oliver created a chemical named _____ that makes people non-violent or fall asleep.
9. Oliver hired a number of _____ body guards.
10. Randy's _____ was stolen, but Verna returns it back to Randy just as Oliver planned.

11. When the Motivator negotiates with the principal, the principal demands the Motivator to bring him the _____.
12. When Oliver felt nervous and wanted to get away from the situation, he _____.

-----END OF SENTENCE COMPLETION SECTION-----

Multiple Choice

13. What is the main job of Oliver's bodyguards?
- a) Follow around Oliver and make sure no one touches him
 - b) Shooting Oliver's chemical to people who mess around with him
 - c) Take pictures of the girl that Oliver likes
 - d) Take good care of Oliver's family including his dog
 - e) Buy Oliver's clothes
14. Why does Oliver suddenly decide to do his best in the presidential election?
- a) He hated his dad's bragging about his student council experience
 - b) He wanted something to write on his resume for high-school application
 - c) He wanted to bring changes to the school
 - d) He wanted to check how popular he is
 - e) His teacher promised him an A in his class
15. Why does Verna stop working for Oliver?
- a) She fell in love with Randy Sparks
 - b) Her mother was sick
 - c) She wanted a vacation
 - d) She wanted more payment
 - e) She did not want to deceive someone she loves
16. How does Oliver describe Randy Sparks in the beginning of the novel?
- a) Oliver says that Randy is the most pathetic guy in the school
 - b) Oliver says that Randy is the most popular guy in the school
 - c) Oliver says that Randy is the best sports player ever
 - d) Oliver says that Randy is the ultimate nerd in the school
 - e) Oliver does not describe Randy
17. How does Oliver describe Tatiana in the beginning of the novel?
- a) Oliver says that she is the most beautiful girl in the school
 - b) Oliver says that she is the fattest girl in the school
 - c) Oliver says that she is the meanest girl in the school
 - d) Oliver says that she is his only friend
 - e) Oliver does not describe Tatiana

18. What makes Oliver look for an opponent candidate in the election while he could've easily become the president?

- a) He wanted to spend his money on the campaign
- b) The school required at least two candidates
- c) Oliver wanted to show off his popularity
- d) Oliver believed that he needed to *win* an election to be recognized as a president from everyone
- e) Oliver wanted to actually *win* an election so that he can be equal as his dad

19. What book was Oliver's English class reading in the beginning of the novel?

- a) Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
- b) The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- c) The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
- d) Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- e) Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

20. What did Oliver do to make an opponent candidate?

- a) He bribed one of his friends
- b) He threatened one of his friends
- c) He hired several people to lure his friend's dad so that the dad of his friend can force his friend
- d) He asked the teacher to force someone to try out
- e) He did nothing but simply waited

21. What does Oliver's chemical invention do to people who are exposed to it?

- a) It makes people feel like doing nothing more violent than taking a nap
- b) It makes tears to come out and later people would faint
- c) It burns the skin and eventually kills people
- d) It made them follow whatever Oliver tells them to do
- e) It was a failure that had no effect at anything

22. How does Mr. Moorhead think of Oliver?

- a) He knows that Oliver is a genius evil
- b) He thinks Oliver is the dumbest student in his class
- c) He believes Oliver is a hardworking student
- d) He pities Oliver for his fat body
- e) He never knew there was a student named Oliver

23. What did Oliver and his dad talk about when Oliver's mom was not with them? (This part is specifically in the middle of the novel where the family was eating altogether)

- a) They talked about the NBA finals
- b) They talked about the Superball
- c) They talked about Oliver's girlfriend
- d) They talked about mom's food
- e) They did not talk to each other

24. For what reason did the principal not let Oliver run in the beginning?
- a) Oliver had a low GPA
 - b) Oliver had two suspensions before
 - c) Oliver was not nominated
 - d) Oliver refused to run in the election before
 - e) Oliver was fat
25. Which of the following is not what Oliver did?
- a) Made Sheldrake the third richest man on Earth
 - b) Hired people to steal a figure from the African dictator
 - c) Peed in the pants
 - d) Hired Verna
 - e) Cheating on his test
26. What are the names of Oliver's bodyguards?
- a) Sean, Pistol, Bardolph
 - b) Pistol, Bardolph, and Nym
 - c) Pistol, Rifle, and Bardolph
 - d) Sniper, Pistol, and Rifle
 - e) Sean, Nick, Jason
27. What does Oliver talk about in his speech?
- a) He says that student council is basically powerless and that the presidential election is a beauty contest
 - b) He says that he will change the whole school system dramatically so that they will have a longer summer break
 - c) He says that he will give out \$100 to everyone if he gets elected
 - d) He talked about how he loves his life
 - e) He had no speech but a short introduction of himself

-----END OF MULTIPLE CHOICE SECTION-----

Short Answer

28. Describe Oliver's attitude in the beginning of the novel.
29. Why is Oliver happy of Tatiana and his mom getting along well?
30. How does Randy Sparks think about the election in the beginning?
31. What does the Motivator do with the other presidential candidates?
32. Who bombed the stage that Sheldrake was using for his speech? Why?

33. How does Oliver make Randy join the election?
34. How does Oliver cover up his wealthiness?
35. What are some false rumors that Oliver's friends spread?
36. What is the main cause that made Oliver rip the whole speech he prepared for?
37. What was Oliver about to do before he met his dad and talk with him?

-----**END OF SHORT ANSWER SECTION**-----

Essays

38. Explain the importance of the relationship between Oliver and his dad.
39. How do you think life would be as living as Sheldrake? Why?
40. What do you think about Oliver's characteristic? Good? Bad? Why?
41. What do you think about the whole election process? Corrupted? Normal? Why?
42. Why is the quote from dad that says 'he is proud of Oliver' important?

Answer Key

True/False Questions

1. False - Sheldrake is Oliver's cover-up character. Oliver uses him to cover up his wealth as a middle schooler.
2. False - Oliver's dad said that the election itself is more important than the position acquired.
3. False - Verna is the woman that Oliver hired. She deliberately approaches Randy's father through a small incident that Oliver created. As Randy's father's new girlfriend, Verna makes Randy run for the election.
4. True - This is why the African dictator sent mercenaries to bomb the stage that Sheldrake was using for his speech.
5. False - Oliver *was planning to* give out a typical presidential speech but abruptly decides to give out a speech that mocked the whole election itself.
6. True - Oliver's dad and Oliver forms a nice relationship at the end, and Oliver's dad says that he is proud of Oliver. Oliver tells the reader that he saw the truthfulness in his dad's eyes.

Sentence Completion

1. Lollipop
2. Lazopril
3. 3
4. Bike
5. Rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure
6. Peed in his pants and ran away

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. E
4. A
5. C
6. E
7. D
8. C
9. A
10. B
11. E
12. D
13. E
14. B
15. A

Short Answers

1. Oliver is very sarcastic and has a negative point of view towards everything in the beginning of the novel. It seems like he does not believe in his parents either.

2. Oliver likes his mom although he hates his dad. However, Oliver's mom had no friends before, and because Tatiana became Oliver's mom's friend, Oliver was happy.
3. Randy Sparks did not want to run in the election in the beginning just like Oliver was. Randy seemed intimidated and showed weak enthusiasm.
4. The Motivator visits other presidential candidates and make them give up on the presidential election so that Oliver can automatically win the election.
5. The African dictator sent mercenaries to bomb the stage that Sheldrake was using because the dictator believed that Sheldrake stole his expensive and super unique figure.
6. Oliver hired several men and Verna. The men stole Randy's bike and gave it to Verna. Verna then pretended to be a nice citizen and gave it back to Randy, and met Randy's dad. Verna soon became Randy's dad's new girl friend, and persuaded Randy's dad to force Randy to run in the election.
7. Oliver uses Sheldrake and created a false image of Sheldrake. With Oliver's help, Sheldrake is known as the third richest man on Earth but in reality, he is just a doll of Oliver's. Oliver is the one who is wealthy and the one who has ultimate power over Sheldrake.
8. The rumors said that Randy sleeps naked, does not like pizza, and more over. There were good rumors of Oliver that said Oliver can set fire to anything with his power of mind.
9. The main reason seems to be Oliver's father. Oliver always wanted to win his father, which causes the whole story line. When Oliver saw his dad, Oliver wanted to win him so badly and thought he needed to do something special in order to win him.
10. Oliver ordered his people to bomb the school and break the school down, but after talking with his dad, Oliver told his people not to do so and leave the school as it is.

Essays

1. The relationship between Oliver and his dad is what that creates the whole storyline in the novel.

Oliver wants to crush his dad's pride, and from that will, the whole storyline proceeds. Because Oliver wanted to win his dad, he first decides to join the presidential election and win it. But after Oliver joined the election and made other candidates give up, Oliver's dad claimed that 'winning' the election is more important. So Oliver decides to add another candidate to the election so that he can win an election. That is why Verna and the men in black suits were hired, and Randy became the other candidate running against Oliver. Later on, Oliver and his dad's relationship also plays a huge role when Oliver is delivering his presidential speech. After Oliver saw his dad, he thought he needed to do something special so that he can win his dad, and therefore ripped his well prepared speech, and gave a radical speech that mocked the whole middle school student council election. If Oliver had no will to win his dad, if Oliver and his dad's relationship was a nice father-to-son relationship, then the novel's story would not have proceeded.

2. I think living my life as Sheldrake does would not be that happy. Although Sheldrake is known as the third most richest man on Earth to other people, in reality, he is just a tool of Oliver's. As an adult, I think it is quite embarrassing to become a middle schooler's tool. Sheldrake does whatever Oliver tells him to do, and acts as the third most richest man on Earth just to cover up Oliver's wealth. Although Sheldrake seems like he has the money and fame, everything is based on Oliver and his life is totally dependent on a middle schooler. That is why I think living as Sheldrake would not be that good. The money isn't actually Sheldrake's, and he has to work for Oliver. Rather than living as a tool for a middle schooler, I would live normally by myself. That would provide me a free life at least, instead of a life restricted by a small middle schooler.
3. Oliver surely has quite a bad characteristic. First of all, Oliver is too sardonic. It seems like he does not believe in human beings. When his dad smiled at Oliver, Oliver says that he hated his

dad's smile. I believe no middle schooler would say that in such a mood. It was not after a fight with his dad or anything. They had a typical normal day, and the dad smiled towards his son. But Oliver says he hated his dad's arrogant and proud smile. Adding on, Oliver also describes his friends and teachers in a cynical way that makes them look funny. For example, he describes Mr. Moorhead so that he seems like a old teacher who is stupid. Oliver also seems quite arrogant, because he claims that he is a genius. The way how he acts and thinks is just not normal. Abnormal actions are not always bad, but in this case, because it is so cynical and arrogant, I think Oliver has a bad characteristic.

4. Oliver's election process and campaign is really messed up if we consider the fact that it is a middle school presidential election. Although I hope it is not that common, I believe that spreading false rumors can be seen in some middle school elections. Mudslinging, which I call it, is something that is obviously not that pleasant and courteous. Moreover, Oliver's attitude towards money is also quite messed up. Oliver believes that he can do whatever he wants to with his money. He uses money to join the election process again, make other candidates give up, add Randy to the election as his opponent candidate, and so on. Normally, a middle schooler will not hire a man to steal a super expensive figure from an African dictator just to join the election process again. Wealthiness is not the point. Oliver's usage of money and view of the world through money is the problem. Therefore I believe that this election is quite messed up and is definitely corrupted.
5. Throughout the novel, Oliver was always thriving to win his dad. He believed that his dad was only proud of himself, and was looking down at others in a derogatory manner. The whole process trying to win an election seems like Oliver's struggle to impress his dad and crush his pride. At the end, the fact that Oliver's dad said that he is proud of Oliver shows that Oliver finally succeeded at impressing his father. Considering the fact that the whole novel was a story about Oliver trying to impress his dad so that his dad cannot be proud only about himself, the

ending is quite meaningful because Oliver did reach his goal although we do not know if he won the election or not.